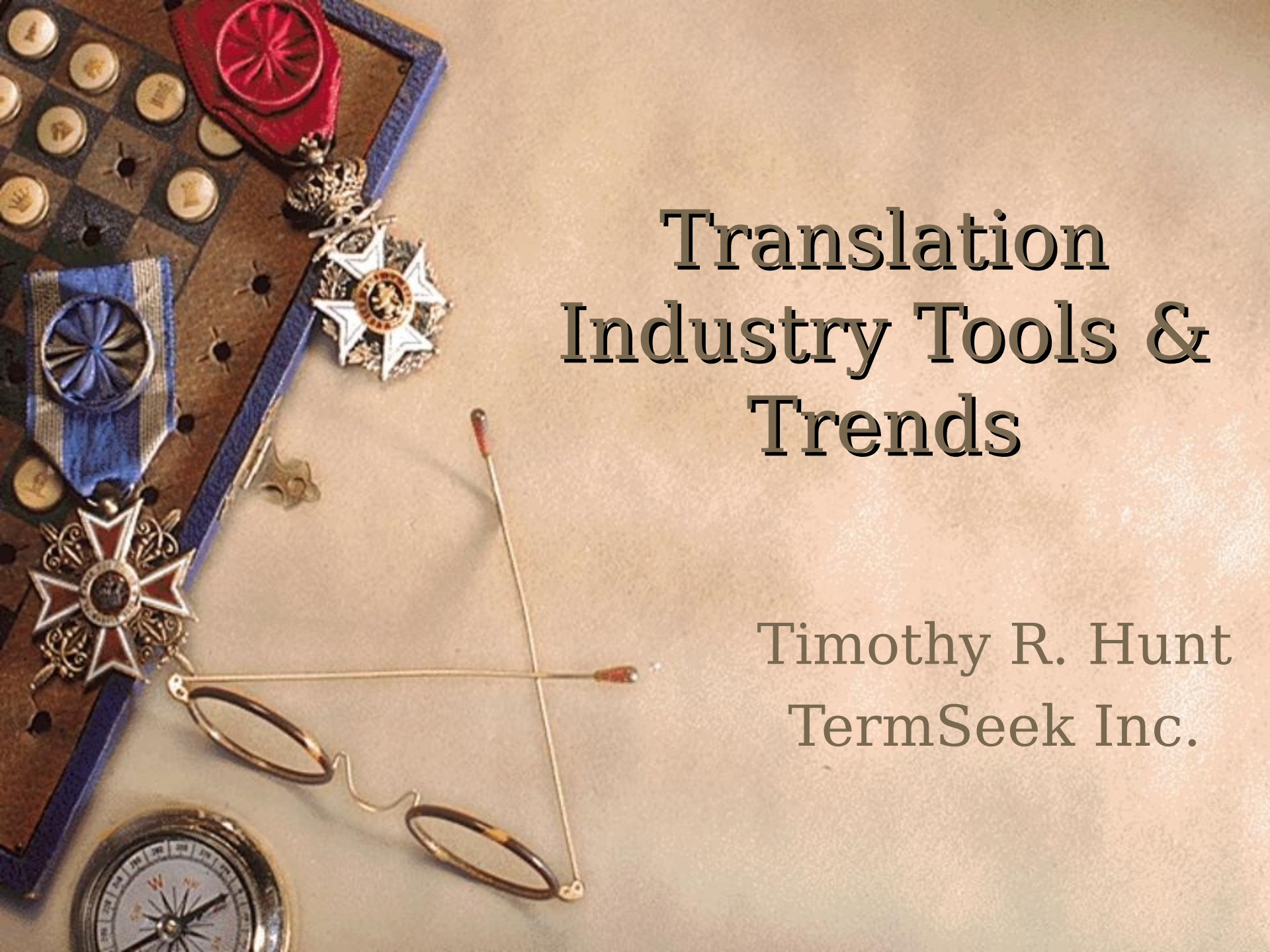

Translation Industry Tools & Trends

Timothy R. Hunt
TermSeek Inc.

Star Trek Universal Translator

“Soon, researchers will bring us devices that can translate foreign languages as fast as you can speak.”

Former President Bill Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 27, 2000

Machine Translation Example

Original English

You can tell who the leaders are by the arrows in their backs.

English to Spanish Machine Translation

Usted puede decir quién los seres de líderes por las flechas en sus espaldas.

Spanish to English Machine Translation

You are able to say who the beings of leaders by the arrows in its backs.

FreeTranslation.com

The Rebuttal

“. . . human speech remains something that can be interpreted correctly only by human beings. Please don't build false hopes by talking of machines that are still, unfortunately, in the realm of fantasy-land—where they will remain for the indefinite future.”

President Ann G. Macfarlane
American Translator’s Association

The Truth

“Computers will never replace linguists, but linguists that use computers will replace linguists that don’t.”

Dr. Ray T.Clifford
Provost, Defense Language Institute

Industry Trends

- 420,000 translators worldwide.
- $12.9 billion dollar industry.
- 20% of translators use some form of Computer Assisted tools.

ABI Industry Analyst Report

Industry Trends

- Less than 1% of translation work is done by machine translation.
- The need for translation is growing 25% to 35% per year.
- Actual translation work is currently about 10% of all translatable material.

ABI Industry Analyst Report

Translation Problems

- Translator may lack technical knowledge.
- Translator may have mediocre writing skills.
- Translator may lack fluency in both languages.
- Human translation is expensive and time consuming.

Computer Assisted Translation (CAT)

- Refers to the method of using various computer technology tools to assist in the translation process.
- CAT is divided into Machine Aided Human Translation (MAHT) and Human Aided Machine Translation (HAMT)

TRANSLATED ENTIRELY by HUMAN

HT
(HUMAN TRANSLATION)

TRANSLATED MOSTLY by HUMAN

MAHT
(MACHINE AIDED HUMAN TRANSLATION)

TRANSLATED MOSTLY by MACHINE

HAHT
(HUMAN AIDED MACHINE TRANSLATION)

}

CAT
(COMPUTER AIDED TRANSLATION)

TRANSLATED ENTIRELY by MACHINE

MT
(MACHINE TRANSLATION)

Machine Aided Human Translation Tools

- Electronic dictionaries & glossaries.
- Terminology management systems.
- Translation memory programs.
- Quality analysis tools.
- Coordinated multi-user translation environments.

How do we evaluate what tools meet our needs and solve our problems?

Step One

Identify needs and best business practices.

Needs

- Quick access to translation dictionaries.
- Quick access to translation memory.
- Quality analysis tools (consistency checking).
- Coordinate multiple users on a single project.
- Improve translation speed.
- Improve translation quality.
- Improve translator’s language skills.
- Leverage translation expertise.

Step Two

- Evaluate existing tools in relation to needs by asking the following questions.
- Does this tool improve performance without sacrificing quality?
- Does this tool work with how we do translations?
- Is it easy to use?

Computer Assisted Translation Tools

- Trados — Translator’s Workbench
- Atril — Déjà Vu
- STAR — Star Transit
- TermSeek — Translator’s Intuition

Trados' Translator's Workbench

- Incorporates translation memory at the sentence level.
- You can add on their terminology management system (MultiTerm).
- Requires you to work in Microsoft Word.
- Its greatest strength is in translating previously translated materials where the source text has been modified.

Atril's Déjà Vu

- Incorporates translation memory at the sentence level like Trados.
- Includes a terminology management system.
- Requires you to work in Microsoft Word.
- It has the same strengths as Trados, but at a lower price tag.

STAR Transit

- Has all the same features of Trados and Atril, but uses its own word processing system.
- Because it uses its own word processor you can import text from multiple formats.
- As a result it comes with a higher price tag.

TermSeek's Translator's Intuition

- Provides translation memory at the word, phrase, sentence and paragraph level.
- Includes a terminology management system.
- Includes quality analysis tools.
- Coordinates multiple users on a single project.
- Files can be encrypted.